

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: ARTICLE ON PNES

FOR PNE DELEGATION

REF: STATE 059798

1. AS REQUESTED, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DANA ADAMS SCHMIDT
ARTICLE IN MARCH 14 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR:

2. A UNITED STATES TECHNICAL TASK FORCE NOW IN MOSCOW IS
SUBMITTING TO THE RUSSIANS NEW AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR
LIMITING AND MONITORING PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS.

3. WHILE THE ULTIMATE DEADLINE FOR THEIR WORK IS MARCH 31,
1976, WHEN THE THRESHOLD TEST BAN IS TO GO INTO EFFECT, IT
IS HOPED HERE THAT THE TWO SUPERPOWERS MAY HAVE SOME
INTERIM PROPOSALS TO SUBMIT TO THE 80 SIGNATORIES OF THE
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NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY MEETING IN GENEVA IN MAY.

4. THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN VIEW HAS TURNED SHARPLY AGAINST PEACEFUL EXPLOSIONS. THIS YEAR'S U.S. BUDGET FOR RESEARCH ON THESE LINES IS ONLY 1 MILLION DOLLARS AND FRED C. IKLE, DIRECTOR OF THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY, HAS CALLED PEACEFUL EXPLOSIONS QUOTE CRIMINAL UNQUOTE. HE BELIEVES THE UNITED STATES MADE A FUNDAMENTAL ERROR IN THE

1950S BY PROMOTING THE WORLDWIDE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY UNDER THE GUISE OF PEACEFUL ATOMIC ENERGY PROGRAMS.

5. INDIAN BLAST RECALLED -- ONE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS PROLIFERATION OF EXPERTISE AND NUCLEAR MATERIALS, AMERICAN EXPERTS NOW REALIZE, WAS THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, OSTENSIBLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, LAST YEAR.

6. BUT THE SOVIET UNION IS FAR FROM AGREEING WITH THIS ASSESSMENT, A POINT PERSISTENTLY MADE BY THOSE AMERICAN SCIENTISTS, NOTABLY THOSE OF THE LIVERMORE LABORATORIES OF BERKELEY, CALIF., WHO ARE STILL INTERESTED IN RESEARCH IN PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS.

7. THE MOST GRANDIOSE AND PERHAPS MOST PRACTICAL OF THE PROJECTS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE SOVIET UNION IS ONE TO DIVERT SEVERAL RIVERS THAT NORMALLY FLOW INTO THE BARENTS SEA. THEIR COURSE WOULD BE REVERSED TO THE VOLGA. THIS WOULD HELP RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE CASPIAN SEA TO ITS FORMER LEVEL. THE CASPIAN SEA LEVEL HAS GONE DOWN EIGHT FEET OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, THEREBY LEAVING PORTS AND FISHING VILLAGES SEPARATED FROM THE WATER AND CUTTING THE SEA'S YIELD OF FISH IN HALF.

8. 'CHEATING' SUSPECTED -- AMERICAN TECHNICIANS SUSPECT THE SOVIETS ARE INSISTING ON THE VALUE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR CREATING LAKES, OR CANALS, OR FOR RELEASING THE FLOW OF OIL AND GAS FROM SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBERS (ALL OF WHICH AMERICAN RESEARCH HAS FOUND DISAPPOINTING), BECAUSE THEY WOULD LIKE TO USE THE PEACEFUL BLASTS TO CHEAT ON THE 150 KILOTON THRESHOLD THAT WAS PROPOSED AT THE MOSCOW SUMMIT.

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9. AN EXPLOSION OF 300 KILOTONS -- OSTENSIBLY FOR PEACEFUL USES -- WOULD YIELD TO THE RUSSIANS A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION THEY COULD APPLY TO MILITARY USES, EXPERTS SAY. END OF TEXT. INGERSOLL

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